

## Jeffrey Ballard, MD Vascular Surgeon

*What vascular advances excite you?*

We're seeing remarkable advances in endovascular devices and techniques. However, the zest to view every potential treatment as an "endo" opportunity must be tempered by physician knowledge and experience in open surgical as well as minimally invasive procedures. Endovascular procedures are often perceived as more glamorous yet have limitations.

*What are the strengths of the Vascular Institute?*

I believe that we have the strongest six-person group in the U.S., comprised of talented and well-known vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists working for the good of patients with vascular disease.

*What has been most gratifying for you?*

Non-surgically, it's my fulfilling marriage of 25 years to Tami, who is truly a wonderful woman and who also provides me with emotional strength. I'm also quite proud of my daughters, Lauren and Katelyn, who attend UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara, respectively.

Surgically, I developed a new method for open repair of complex thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms (TAA). Previously, this

operation was associated with numerous patient and technical complications. Using this technique, open TAA repair can be performed in an unhurried manner and our data demonstrate better patient tolerance. Secondly, I've championed retroperitoneal exposure of the abdominal aorta for repair of aneurysms and other complex aortic problems. This approach was not my original idea, but I began using it routinely at a time when few to no other vascular surgeons were doing so. Over the ensuing years, techniques have been refined and even the most complex of aortic/mesenteric and renal cases can be performed using this exposure. Prior to its use patients typically had long midline incisions and a hospital stay of 7-10 days; now they're going home in 2-3 days following extensive vascular surgery!

*As a past president and current member of the national, regional and local Vascular Societies, what issues are you involved in?*

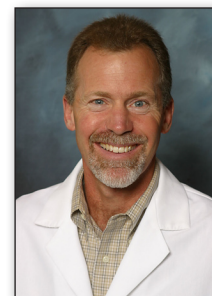
One of the biggest issues involves our identity. Few people recognize that vascular surgeons are the only physicians who can truly offer comprehensive care for patients with peripheral vascular disease. We've made some strides regionally and nationally but have a lot of work ahead on this branding issue. I'm also concerned about the devaluation of the work that physician/surgeons

do. Reimbursement dollars for professionals are being diverted away from MDs to third-party payers and administrators rather than to those who truly take on the risk and do the work.

*Dr. Ballard grew up in Fullerton and after his undergraduate studies at Stanford University, he attended Vanderbilt University Medical School. He spent the first 12 years of his vascular surgery career on staff at Loma Linda University Medical Center, advancing to Professor of Surgery before joining the practice of Flanigan and Harward in 2004.*

*He and his wife, Tami, are avid golfers who frequent the Tustin Ranch course. They hold season tickets to the Performing Arts Center Broadway series and enjoy catching a movie at the Edwards University Town Center and dinner at Britta's Café in Irvine. He also professes to be an ardent Stanford Cardinal fan.*

**Interested in being  
featured in the  
Medical Staff Briefs?  
Call (714) 744-8559  
or email [marketing@stjoe.org](mailto:marketing@stjoe.org)**



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE

St. Joseph Hospital   
ST. JOSEPH  
HEALTH SYSTEM

1100 W. Stewart Dr.  
Orange, CA 92868

[www.sjo.org](http://www.sjo.org)